THE TRUE
RELATION
OF THE LATE & HAPPIE
VICTORIE,

Obtained by the MARQUES of
MONTROSE his Excellencie,
HIS MAJESTIES
Lievetenant, and Generall Governour of the
Kingdom of SCOTLAND:

Against General Lievetenant Baylie, and others
of the Rebels, at Kilsyth, 15 August, 1645.

SOME LINES,

Upon the Marques of MONTROSE HIS EXCELLENCIE;

Written by the late Lord GORDON, *Who died at Alford, valiantlie* fighting for His Majesties Service.

WEe need not prayse thee, let thy passiue Foes
Tell their Destruction; whilst our Nation, owes
In compensation, for the blood that's spilt
Memorialls of thy Glorie, and their Guilt,
Who tempted first thy Loyaltie, to dare
With private Valour, t'undertake a Warre
Against a Multitude, Fortune alone
Favouring to bring future successes One:
But now thy Sword hath so destructiue beene,
In spight of Force, and Danger, that the sinne
Of bolder Treason, hence-foorth seems to bee
The presage of thy further Victorie:
Whilst thy succesfull Arm sustayns alone
The freedom of a Kingdom, and a Crown.

GEORGE GORDON.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

AFter the Battell of ALFORD, *MONTROSE* resolving to prosecute his VICTORIE, marcheth the same night to Clunye; where hee arryveth in the morning betymes: And after some hours-halt, moveth to Craigtoun, two myles distance from the North-syde Dee; whence hee directeth the Earl of Aboyn to Buchan, and all those next adjacent places, for new Recrewes; in reguard that many of his Forces consisting of Hy-landers, and others there of those parts, had stragled off the Army, and gone to their homes. Then Generall Major Mack-Donald, who had been directed formerly off, was not as yet returned: Alwayes after some stay there at Craigtoun, fynding the Supplies, contrarie to his expectation, but slowlie advancing, resolveth not to dryue tyme, crosseth Dee, marching strayght in the Merns, and quartereth the same night at Fordon; having sent to Aberdene at his march from Craigtoun, to the Earl of Aboyn; vnderstanding hee was, at last, advanced the length; That hee might meet him there in the Merns, as his nearest way.

ABOYN commeth the next morning: But not being well accompanied, *MONTROSE* desyred him return to increass his numbers; and hasten vp agayn vnto him with all possible speed, hee himself marcheth strayght towards Brechen: Where hee vnderstandeth that Generall Major Mack-Donald was fallen in the West of Angus, with Mackclen Inchbrakie, & all those Hy-land Forces. Upon which hee resolveth to march towards him: That beeing joyned, hee might advance to the other syde Tay, to prevent the Rebels Levies, and interrupt their Parliament, which was then intended in great State.

Upon his crossing the River, and march towards Logiamond, the Enemie were somwhat startled: But so soon as hee advanced to Meffen, and sent some parties of Horss towards the Town of Saint Johnston; their Foot being retyred on the other syde of the Bridge of Ern, their Horss who were vpon Guard, and in the Town, vpon the sight of some Scouts, took so the Alarum; apprehending that *MONTROSE* was presentlie to advance and storm; that they run in such fearfull terrour, that they would not come in sight of a single Horss-man; though they were stronger by at least three hundreth.

MONTROSE resolveth to incamp there at Meffen, and stay for his Northern Supplies; which hee had to haue hourly expected. And fynding the Enemie in such apprehension, hee thought best to keep them going. So next day (hee not beeing fourscore Horses) causeth mount an hundreth or sixscore Dragoniers, & faceth the Town, at such a distance; and so ordered, as if hee had been all Horse-men, and having given them an hot Alarum, immediately marcheth with the same Partie towards Diplin, and the water Ern, to scurrie all those fields, and startle the Enemie; as if hee had been able to cõmand the whole Countrey by Parties. Upon which, the Enemie lifteth Horse and Foot, fearing his March to Striviling, and incampeth at Newtown, some few myles from thence, to put themselues in the way.

Some dayes passing in this kynd, the Enemie expecting Recrewes from the West and South; and *MONTROSE* impatiently longing for his Supplies from the North, who should haue been long of before with him, directeth in all haste thither for that effect; which yet still tending to Delayes, the Enemies whole Forces being gathered, they resolved to fight before those of the North should come, and joyne with *MONTROSE*, so crosseth the water, and advanceth Horse & Foot towards his Camp. Upon which (they being stronger in both then aboue four thousand) resolveth to march: So giveth cõmand, that the Baggage provisions, and all of that kynd, might draw off, and putteth himself in Batrallie; directing some Parties to the severall passes, as if hee had been resolved to haue fought; by which, having amused the Enemie, vntill his Baggage, & al of that kynd, were so far gone, as they cold be no hinderances, he thẽ marches off in a closs bodie, keeping a strong party of cõmanded mẽ to flank the few horse, which he had on the Reer: So the Enemie never doubting, but hee was to haue fought, vntill on the sudden they saw him quyte gone, falleth on fast, to haue ingaged his Reer: But there being several passes, hee so dallies, & keepeth them vp, as hee putteth himself without all reach; and poynting his course towards Dunkell, hee quickly reacheth some strong grounds, where the Enemies Horses were not well able to follow: Which they perceaving, & fynding they could bee no better, advanceth fast vp their forlorn partie of Horse, to vapour at the pass, that they might seem with handsomness to return.

MONTROSE perceaving, directed some twelue or twentie of his ableist Hylanders, with snapworks, who killing some of their Gentlemen, by mark shots; & seeing them begin to reill, & startle,

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fell out resowedly in the open field vpon them, though they were not aboue in all twentie, and made their whole bodie of three hundreth Horss, to run vpon the spur; so hee marcheth that night to little Dunkell; where hee resolveth to incamp it, beeing a strong ground, and convenient for the passes of the River, to favour the joyning of his supplies: To who hee directed agayn with all possible diligence to hasten: So a few dayes passing in this kynd, the Enemy lying near where *MONTROSE* camped of before at Meffen, and hee still at little Dunkell, the Earls of Airlie, Aboyn, & Colonell Gordon, came at last along with the Horses, & though not by much so considerably as were expected, *MONTROSE* resolues to march straycht vpon the Enemie, fynding hee could bee for the tyme in no better posture, and that their forces were much melted away. So marching down towards Logiamond, within some three myles of their camp, hee faced somwhat near with his Horses, to touch their pulss, and try before hee should ingage, whether his intelligence did or not hold good, making his foot to march off to their quarter that night, they kept themselues so closs, as almost they did not at all appear, by which it was expected they would march off before the next morning. So *MONTROSE* getting very early to horss, to view the fields; learneth that they had marched in the night tyme, in great disorder; and were incamped on the South syde the Bridge of Ern: Upon which, hee presently lifteth to march towards them, crosseth Ern, and incampeth that night, som six myles short, marcheth early the next morning: And comming within view, fyndeth them drawing in so strong a ground, as their could bee no approach. so hee resolveth to march a little towards their left hand, to bee betwixt them, and the Shyre of Fyff; that they should haue no supplies, and (if it were possible) hee might force their ground, so that night passeth. Next morning, seeing them ly still at their Posts, and that they could not bee forced from such advantage, without great hazard, hee resolveth to march into Fyff, to break the Randevouses of that Shyre; who were al a-gathething to joyn with them, & to draw them also out of those strong grounds, to come to the supplie of their friends: So hee removeth, and marcheth that night to Kinrose, the Enemie making a fashion to follow vp his Rear: But not daring heartily to do it, moveth a several way towards the East of Fyff: *MONTROSE* directing with a forss partie Colonell Gordon, & Sir William Rollock, who having occasion to send off most of them severall wayes, encountred two hundreth of the Enemies Horss & [illegible] particular Randevow

just their in the way; and not being aboue twelue persons, chargeth the Enemie, puttreth them to the rout, and taketh & killeth divers.

Alwayes MONTROSE fynding that whole Shyre would joyne with the Enemie; and that hee could not fight them with so great disadvantage: and lykewyse vnderstanding that the whole South & West were gathering agaynst him, resolved with long marches to cross Forth, and shake himself so louse of the Enemie, as all their auxilaries of Fyff, and those places should weary to follow, & those Conventions of the West & South bee dispersed, before their Armie should bee able to reach that length: So hee removeth from Kinrose next morning, & incampeth within some three myles of Striviling that night. On the morrow knowing the Enemie would advance, hee marcheth to be on the other syde Forth, staying himself, with all his horses vpon the Reer; the Armie being a good distance gone, his spyes come, & tel him, the enemie were advancing: So seeing some of their scouts already in view, he followeth slowlie the way off the march, and learning by a prisoner, that the Enemie were to moue all that night, to haue ingaged him to fight before their auxiliaries should go frō them; who were already very weary, and extream vnwilling to cross Forth: hee resolveth lykewyse to march the whole night. So next morning halting some six myls on the Southsyde Striviling, MONTROSE fynding that the Enemy had not crossed the water that night, but camped som three myls short on the other syde. Wherefore hee cōtinueth his march, cōmeth to Kilsyth the same night; where hee was not well incamped, when the Enemy cōmeth vp, & pitcheth within some three myles. Upon which, MONTROSE resolveth next day to fight; knowing that the Earl of Lanerick had conveaned much of the Countrey; & was already with a thousand foot, & fyue hundreth horss, within twelue myls: As also, that the whole West was gathering to a head; & that hee behoved to fight in tyme, or those forces shold al joyn, & come vpō him; or otherwise he shold be cōstrained to take the *Hielands*.

So next morning hee going tymely abroad, to view the Enemie, fyndeth they were resolved to press him to fight, and not stay vpon their Supplies, out of a conceat they had, hee would take the Mountayns, and not byde them. So seeing them quyte their own ground, and advance towards him to force him from his, (which was that in the world hee most wished) hee drew instantly out, and met them in the field, equal almost betwixt the two Camps, giving al his mē order, horss & foot, to cast themselues, & charge in their Shirts, as being al rather resolved to die in the place, nor not carry it, since much of his Majesties

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fortunes did depend on that succeſs. And having two Regiments only placed,& the horſs not as yet al come vp;and the whole reſt of the foot at a great diſtance,the enemy begins already to play hard on ſom commanded men, that MONTROSE had advanced to ſome houſes near the place where hee was to draw vp; but they being preſently beat, & running back in diſorder; MONTROSE men were ſo inſpyred with reſolution,and the luſter of their whytes,impatient to ſtay vpon orders, marched along to the top of the bray, hard joyning to the enemies whole body,both of horſs & foot. So MONTROSE ſeeing them ingaged, and that it was as impoſſible to draw them off. as for them to haue ſtood,if the Enemy had but had the reſolution to haue charged; thinketh that there were nothing ſo ſafe,being ſo far already ingaged, as reſolvedly to put it on. The enemy beginning to ſtagger;and not al of them either drawn vp; ſo cõmandeth the Van with horſs,and flanking Muſquetiers advance, and giue an home-charge,& the reſt,as they could, to follow in their ſeverall order;which did ſo at vnawars aſtoniſh the Enemy, as their horſs reſolved not to ſtand; and their foot (after firſt *Salvie)* placed all their hopes in their going, which but ſerved for little; MONTROSE men having the execution of them ſome fourteen myls, and of ſix thouſand foot, to which they eſtimate, there did not (ſo far as is known) fiftie eſcape.

Their horſs conſiſting of eight hundreth, were all either killed, taken, or mightily diſperſed. Of Priſoners there were ſeveral taken; as Sir William Murray of Blebo,the Laird of Fairlye,brother to the Lord Burley,Lievetenant Colonell Dick,Lievetenant Colonell Wallace,and divers other Captains,and inferiour officers. MONTROSE conſiſting of ſome four thouſand foot, and fyue hundred horſs, had not of all aboue ſix killed. This ſo happie & glorious Victorie obtayned at Kilſyth, the xv day of Auguſt, 1645, did ſo ſtoniſh the hearts of the Rebels, & ſtate the myndes of the faythfull Subject; that the one ſeemed to bee ſtruke with ſuch terrour, as they wold haue wiſhed hills & mountains to haue covered their iniquitie. The other to be ſo confirmed from the evident and ſenſible acknowledgement of GOD Almighties providence; That they run to profeſs their Righteouſneſs *(then)* as the Noon-day.

The Rebels went indeed back, not only ſeven wayes, but by more a great many: ſome towards Berwick, ſome to Irland,ſom to Newcaſtle, others to Carleell, and ſome (as the Iewes) ſcattered every where.

The whole Countrey,Borrowes,& Gentrie, begun all frequently, to offer themſelves to MONTROSE: and in particular, The Towns of Glaſgow & Linlithgow; who in their he[illegible] againſt the diſperate iniquitie of ſo corrupt a tyme, ſtood loya[illegible]d for his Majeſty, chiefly the

Comes Montrose passing on a day only at Kilsyth to refresh his people, marcheth towards Glasgow, & so to Bothwel vpon Clide, whence hee directeth parties to the East & West, chargeth Edenburgh to render, receaveth them to obedience, relieveth the Earl of Crawford, Lord Ogilvie, and many other Officers & Gentlemen, who were in miserable Prisons: and that only for their loyaltie & faythfulnes to his Majesties Service. All the Westlykewyse giveth over: The Earl of Eglingtoun & Casles (who began to make some stickling; but not being followed by the Countrey, & not daring to trust themselues) flying several ways. The whole Gentrie & Cōmons freely offer themselues for his Majesties service: & in particular som in Carrick, who stood loyally affected to his Majestie, the Town of Air, and other places did the same lykewyse.

THis is the seventh Battell, & the sixth totall Victory, which Montrose *(by the extraordinary Blessings of Almighty GOD) hath so happily obtayned since his entry into this Kingdom, which being with himself, & but two Gentlemen only: The one whereof abandoned him in greatest necessities, may truely evidence the justice of his Majesties Service, & integrity of that Cause, which hath so happily prevayled: For, as prosperity is to bee concluded as no infallible mark of GODS favour: yet the conscionsnes of innocency, & clearnes of Reason seconded by the succes of happy Providence, may justly confirm vs, that GOD is pleased, and make vs conceave, that if the LORD would have destroyed vs, he would not have taken our Sacrifice, nor carried vs through all this Red Sea and Wilderness.*

Then let al true Christians, & loyal hearted Subjects & Patriots, acknowledge their duety to GOD, Prince, Countrey, proper Interests, & Freedoms; by joyning themselues, & all their vtmost Indevours, for the happy Conclusion of this Great Cause; wherein the Trueth of Religion, honour of the King, peace of the Countrey, happines of the Subjects, are only, & totally intended: So shall the judgement of GOD bee averted, our slavery reanced, our mourning turned into gladnes, and our mouthes filled with Songs of Deliverance.

ECCLES. CHAP. viij. VERS. 2.

I counsell thee to keep the kings cōmandement; and that in reguard of the Oath of GOD.

Vers. 3. Bee not hastie to go out of his sight: Stand not in an evill thing: for hee doeth what-so-ever pleaseth him.

Vers. 4. Where the word of a king is, there is power: And who may say vnto him; What doest thou?

Vers. 5. Who so keepeth the commandement, shall feell no evill thing.

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